

Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8290

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

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AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, EEC, UK, NZ

SUBJECT: EC RENEGOTIATION - NEW ZEALAND

1. /CO OFFICIALS EXPECT THAT THE UK WILL RAISE THE
ISSUE OF CONTINUING ACCESS FOR BUTTER AND CHEESE FROM
NEW ZEALAND IN THE FINAL STAGES OF EC RENEGOTIATION.

2. FOR THE UK, THIS IS MAINLY A MATTER OF PRO-COMMON-
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WEALTH SENTIMENT AND DOMESTIC POLITICS -- NOT ONE OF

ECONOMIC INTEREST. SO FAR, THE QUOTAS FOR NEW ZEALAND BUTTER AND CHEESE EXPORTS TO THE UK THAT WERE SET IN PROTOCOL 18 OF THE EC ACCESSION TREATY HAVE PROVED MORE THAN ADEQUATE. THE QUESTION OF ASSURING CONTINUED ACCESS AFTER 1977 (THE END OF THE TRANSITION PERIOD) NEED NOT ARISE FOR ANOTHER TWO YEARS. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO OUR FCO SOURCES, PRIME MINISTER WILSON TAKES A STRONG PERSONAL INTEREST IN THIS ISSUE, AND HE WILL WANT TO DEMONSTRATE IN SOME WAY THAT THE LABOUR GOVERNMENT WON BETTER TERMS FOR NEW ZEALAND THAN THE CONSERVATIVES DID IN THE ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS.

3. AGRICULTURE MINISTER FRED PEART STATED THE UK'S RENEGOTIATION AIMS FOR NEW ZEALAND IN A SPEECH TO THE EC COUNCIL LAST JUNE. THESE INCLUDED ACCESS FOR UP TO 140,000 TONS PER YEAR OF NEW ZEALAND BUTTER UNTIL 1982, WITH SOME PROVISION FOR CONTINUED ACCESS BEYOND THAT DATE. THE UK ALSO WANTS AN ANNUAL PRICE REVIEW AND SOME ARRANGEMENT FOR CHEESE.

4. SINCE JUNE, THE PROBLEM OF NEW ZEALAND HAS NOT BEEN DISCUSSED BY THE COUNCIL OR COREPER. UK OFFICIALS KNOW THAT THERE IS NOT ENOUGH TIME BETWEEN NOW AND THE DUBLIN SUMMIT, WHEN THE BRITISH HOPE TO COMPLETE RENEGOTIATION, FOR THE COMMUNITY TO AGREE ON DETAILED ARRANGEMENTS FOR NEW ZEALAND DAIRY PRODUCTS FOR THE PERIOD AFTER 1977. AT THE MOMENT, THE BRITISH DO NOT YET HAVE A CLEAR IDEA OF HOW TO DEAL WITH THE NEW ZEALAND ISSUE. OUR SOURCES DOUBT, HOWEVER, THAT WILSON WOULD BE WILLING JUST TO LET THE MATTER DROP. HE WILL AT LEAST WANT SOME AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE FROM THE OTHER MEMBER STATES THAT CONTINUING ACCESS WILL BE ASSURED BEYOND 1977.

5. NEW ZEALAND'S PRIME MINISTER, WALLACE ROWLING, WHO IS ON A TOUR OF EUROPEAN CAPITALS, MET WITH WILSON ON FEBRUARY 10. AT A PRESS CONFERENCE ON THE FOLLOWING DAY, ROWLING SAID HE IS CONVINCED THAT A FAIR DEAL FOR NEW ZEALAND WILL BE PART OF BRITAIN'S RENEGOTIATION PACKAGE.

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